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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Ukraine)

DATE DISTR. 7 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Tank Depot and Airfield with Underground
Hangars near Kharkov
25X1A6a

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Attached is a sketch map of an airfield located approximately 45 kms. east of Kharkov. Details of this field are as follows:

Dimensions: Length: 4,500 meters
Width : 2,500 "

Runway: 1,500 x 7 meters, southwest-northeast, concrete.

Obstacles: Railroad; woods on the southeast side.

Hangars:

- a. Underground hangar under the concrete runway, capable of holding 150 aircraft. Thickness of concrete: 1.50 meters. Aircraft elevator located at southwest end of runway.
- b. Seven hangars, each capable of holding eight tanks; in good condition; located on the field.

Communications: Radio station in the administration building.

Personnel: 500 armored troops.

Materiel:

- 35 Tiger tanks
- 75 Goliath tanks
- 12 Stalin tanks
- 22 KV-1 tanks
- 10 tank transports (18 and 22 tons)
- 2 Skoda 75 mm. anti-tank guns.

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Part of the materiel is kept in the hangars and part on the field.

Munitions depot: Grenades, shells, and machine gun ammunition; in the hangars on the field.

(Washington Comment: On the basis of the distance from Kharkov, the size of the runway, the presence of the Kharkov-Stalino road on the northeast side of the field, and the presence of a railroad connecting Kharkov and

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Stalino on the southwest side of the field, it seems likely that the field in question is one of the two shown at Chuguyev on AAF Chart No. 234. The only contradictory evidence is that source indicates a double-tracked railroad running beside the airfield, while the railroad which passes Chuguyev is indicated as being only single-tracked. Source reports that the 500 armored troops stationed at the field in May 1947 were members of a unit of the Seydlitz "Army" which was located in the Kharkov-East sector and was commanded by Lt. Gen. Kleist, with Major Drudel as adjutant. Some German PWs may have been assigned to the field as instructors in the use and maintenance of German tanks, but it is not believed that they were organized into an "army" unit. Source does not explain why an airfield of sufficient importance to have a large underground hangar and aircraft elevator should be cluttered up with 144 tanks. However, the report is passed on for whatever it is worth because it is one of the few cases of definitely below-surface hangars that have come to our attention.)

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